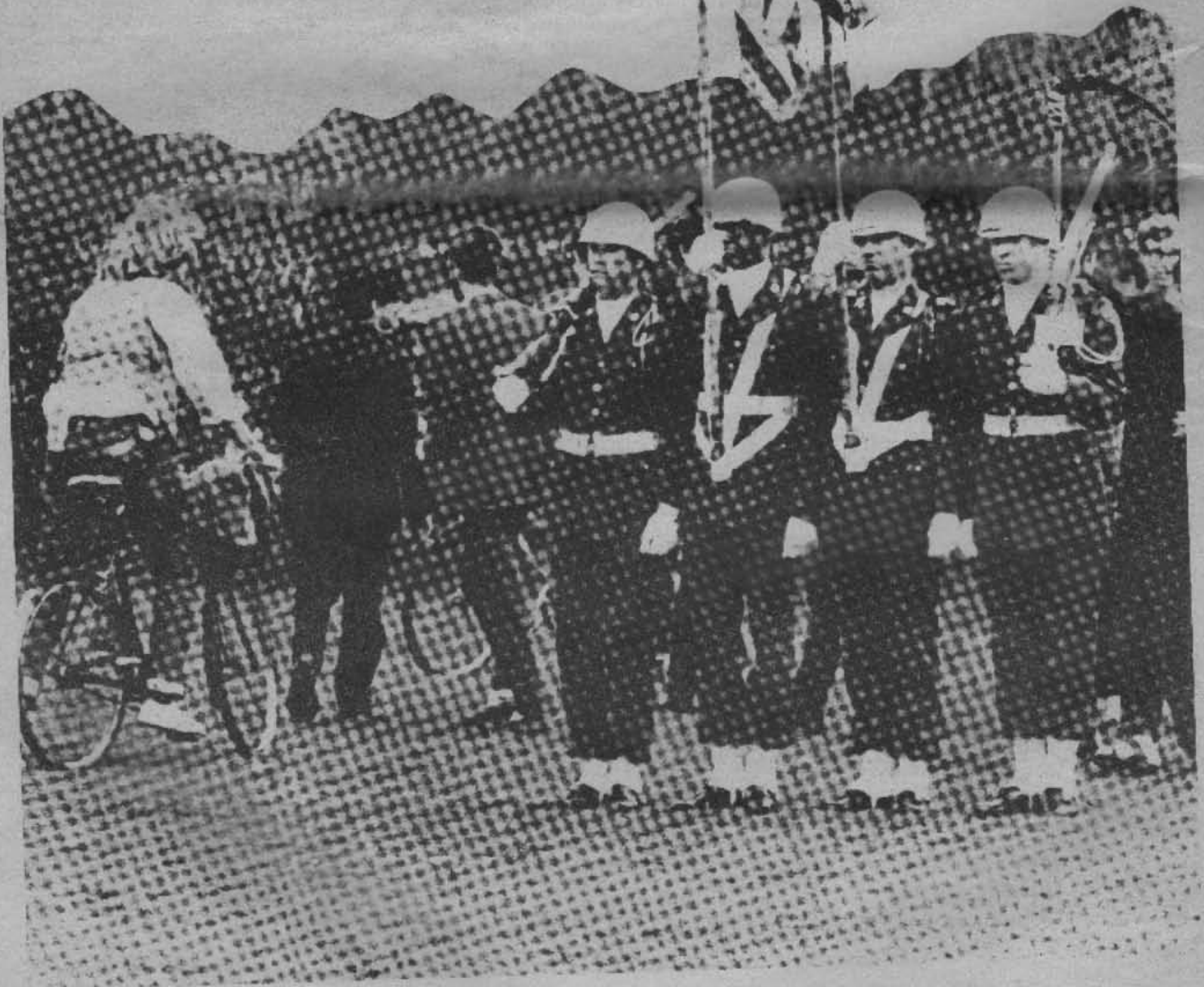




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Demonstration  
at ROTC inspection.  
1968.



It has been a troubling experience to collect the information for this issue of Chaparral. Usually the military on campus is inconspicuous; easy to ignore. We sought it out.

We found that the University lends direct support through ROTC to the destruction of the people and land of Southeast Asia.

We found that 249 of our fellow students are enrolled in ROTC—most of them to avoid the draft. We found that they suffer some of the same coercive denial of freedom that oppresses all those in the military. We found, however, that the military is offering them a privileged alternative to the draft in exchange for the most efficient utilization of their skills in the continuation of the war.

We found the classrooms, fields and academic credit of Stanford being used to discipline cadets into loyalty and obedience to the military hierarchy. We found that the explicit military tactics used in Vietnam are being taught at a supposedly humane university.

We found the faculty of this University has been pressured into satisfying the terms laid down by the U.S. Army for continuation of ROTC.

We found one source of hope: the people of this community. Their protests against the Vietnam War have been ignored for five years. We hope the community is now ready to end the University's participation in the war and the economic exploitation that caused it.



By PACIFIC STUDIES CENTER

On campus after campus during the last few years, militant struggles have been waged by students demanding an end to the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) programs. Partly as a result of such actions, ROTC enrollment is down from last year's level all over the country. Fifty-five colleges and universities have eliminated compulsory ROTC enrollment. Faculties at Yale, Princeton, the University of Pennsylvania, Bowdoin, Washington University, Notre Dame, Massachusetts and other schools have voted to deny academic credit to "military science" courses. Harvard, Dartmouth, Columbia, and Brown are phasing out their ROTC programs completely.

Just how important is ROTC to the U.S. war machine, and what effect will continued student attacks on the program have on this country's ability to wage wars of aggression against the peoples of the Third World? The U.S. intervention in Vietnam has created an acute demand for new junior officers, and ROTC is now the main source of officers for all branches of the Armed Forces. The U.S. government sees American universities and colleges as crucial places from which to recruit youth into the officer corps. For every officer produced by the Service Academies at West Point, Annapolis, and Colorado Springs in 1968, eight were commissioned from the ROTC program. ROTC now produces twice as many career officers for the Army as does West Point.

ROTC units exist on 364 college and university campuses. Total enrollment for the school year 1968-69 was 213,015. More than 23,000 cadets were graduated and commissioned. They accounted for about 50 percent of the Army's new officers, 35 percent of the Air Force's, and 20 percent of the Navy's. (Most of the rest come from 90-day Officer Candidate Schools.)

More than 25 percent of some 400,000 officers now on active duty got their commissions through ROTC. About 85 percent of the Army second

# ROTC: The Military

lieutenants and about 65 percent of the first lieutenants now serving in the combat-arms units (Infantry, Armor, Artillery) were commissioned through ROTC.

"Without ROTC," proclaims *Where the Leaders Are*, an Army ROTC recruitment brochure, "the rapid expansion of the American Army during the two World Wars, the Korean conflict and other periods of national crisis would be difficult if not impossible." The bloody involvement in Vietnam is one of those "other periods of national crisis."

ROTC dates back to Civil War days. The Morrill Act of 1862 (also known as the Land Grant Act), provided that tracts of federal land be given to the states for the support and maintenance of at least one college where the main teaching emphasis would be on agriculture, military tactics, and mechanical arts. Most participating schools made military instruction mandatory.

ROTC as it is known today began during World War I with the National Defense Act of 1916. The program consisted of two years of basic training and two years of advanced training, including six weeks of summer camp instruction. While the program came too late to provide officers for World War I, colleges and universities swamped the government with applications requesting ROTC units for their campuses. By 1919, Army ROTC units had been established on 191 campuses. After the war fever quieted down, however, the number fell to 124.

During World War II, more than 100,000 ROTC graduates served as commissioned officers in the Army. But four-year ROTC training program was found to be too slow and Officer Candidate Schools on military bases were established, as in World War I, to assure the rapid training of officers. Since the Korean War the number of officers produced by ROTC has consistently exceeded the output of Officer Candidate Schools.

Nevertheless, ROTC recruitment had lagged by 1964 to the point where the military realized something had to be done. The ROTC Vitalization Act of 1964 was designed to make the program more attractive. It included, among other measures, such "material incentives" as a pay increase for all students enrolled in the advanced course of the traditional four-year program. Full-tuition scholarships were offered to cadets. The curriculum was broadened to include more courses in disciplines other than Military Science.

More recently, the Army has begun a two-year program which permits a student who has two years of college remaining to qualify for the advanced course by attending and completing a six-week basic summer camp. A big recruiting drive started for the two-year program, aimed at graduate students who were threatened by the draft.

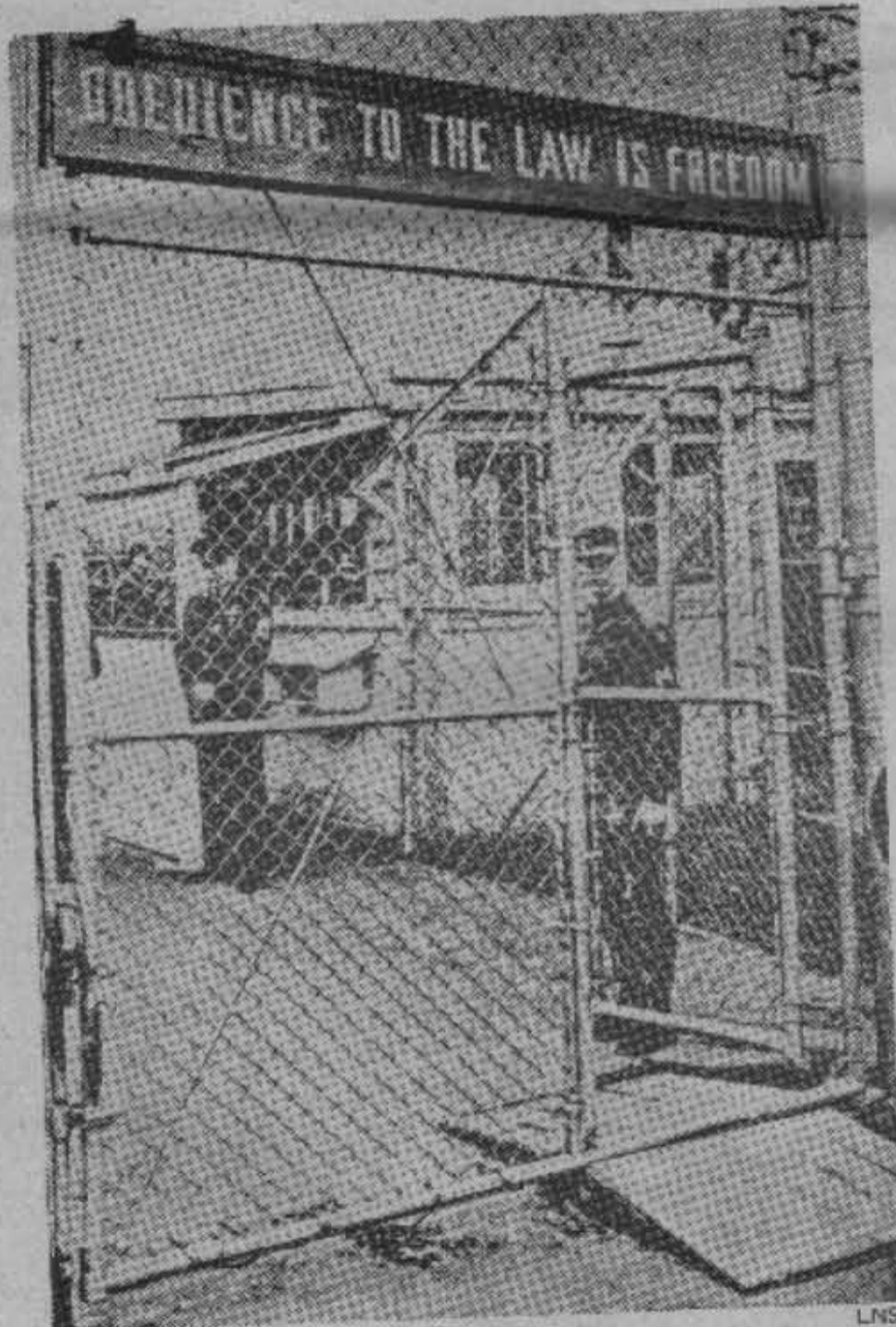
These measures helped to keep ROTC enrollment at a steady level up through the 1966-67 school year with 266,000 students participating. During the next year, 1967-68, however, enrollment fell 12 percent to 234,000. Last year, the number of students participating declined another 9 percent to 213,000. Preliminary samplings for the current year indicate that enrollment may be down as much as 30 percent—possibly more.

At Stanford, the cadet corps totals 250, down from 346 last year. Last fall, the Army managed to sign up only six freshmen. Army ROTC holds their own only by importing students from nearby junior colleges.

What lies behind the fact that ROTC is declining despite the fact that it offers substantial "material incentives?"

First, students are gambling that they will not be taken from the draft pool this year for military service. In other words, students are taking their chances with the draft rather than enrolling in ROTC.

Second, ROTC enrollment is falling at schools that have made ROTC voluntary rather than mandatory. When the regents at Arizona and Arizona State universities eliminated compulsory ROTC this year, the



Fort Dix stockade. The Army has 15,000 men in prison, according to *New Republic* magazine.

LNS